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# NEWSLETTER

A Bimonthly Newsletter for Economic Research Service Employees and Colleagues

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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Former secretaries Richard Lyng and John Block; former ERS administrators Quentin West and Louis Upchurch; and Daniel Sumner, assistant secretary for economics, at the ERS luncheon head table.



ERS luncheon speaker Orville Freeman and Mrs. Freeman. Former secretary Freeman was instrumental in founding ERS.

## ERS Marks 30 Years with Economics and Public Service Conference

About 620 alumni, retirees, friends, and staff of ERS gathered at the Washington Convention Center on April 4 to begin ERS's 30th year retrospective and prospective examination of economics and public service. Secretary of agriculture Edward Madigan was introduced by assistant secretary for economics Bruce Gardner at a luncheon that included former secretaries Richard Lyng, John Block, and Orville Freeman, the guest speaker.

Secretary Madigan expressed his commitment to the future of ERS in USDA. Former secretary Freeman was introduced by Nathan Koffsky, the first ERS administrator and later the USDA director of economics. Freeman reflected on the past and called the establishment of ERS his "most important accomplishment during my first hectic year as secretary of agriculture some 30 years ago."

The conference had 13 concurrent sessions devoted to topics of interest both to research and support staff. Three sessions addressed ERS's role in agricultural policy during the 1960's, 1970's, and 1980's. Speakers included former USDA secretary Lyng, former deputy secretary John Schnittker,

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Otto Doering (Purdue University), Jim Bonnen (Michigan State University), and Willard Cochrane, USDA's first director of agricultural economics, participating in agricultural economics and public service seminar.

and former assistant secretaries Don Paarlberg, Dale Hathaway, Bill Leshner, and Jim Webster. The policy sessions were moderated by ERS alumni: Bill Manley, former deputy administrator of AMS; Wayne Boutwell, president, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives; and Keith Collins, director, Economic Analysis Staff.

A session, "Agricultural Economics and Public Service," featured Jim Bonnen (Michigan State University) as moderator, and speakers Willard Cochrane, USDA's first director of agricultural economics and also a "founder" of ERS and Otto Doering (Purdue University), who just completed his second tour as a visiting scholar with ERS. Topically similar, a session on "ERS and Land-Grant Universities," was moderated by Bud Stanton (Cornell University) with papers by Jim Hildreth (Farm Foundation) and ERS alumnus Burt Sundquist (University of Minnesota).

The session, "Agency Workplace: Where It's Been, Where It's Going," was popular with the support staff and featured a panel that included Linda Stallard (Environmental Protection Agency and ERS alumna), Lillie Jones and Dorothy

Washington (ERS retirees), Rachel Evans (on ERS staff), and moderator Frankie Swenholt, who conducts training sessions for ERS support staff. Also on the program was Don Horton, USDA's Office of Information Resources Management, who discussed the future workplace. A companion session, "USDA and ERS Support Groups: What's Out There?," was moderated by Sara Wampler (Economics Management Staff) and afforded an opportunity for representatives of employee organizations to discuss their services.

Specific aspects of ERS's program were addressed in sessions devoted to resource economics, rural development, international economics, situation and outlook, and data services. Moderators and speakers included a cross-section of academics and representatives of the private sector who have had experience with ERS over the years and former ERS managers. Former director for economics Walter Wilcox moderated a session, "History of BAE/ERS," that included presentations by former ERS historian Wayne Rasmussen and Joel Kunze, a historian at Upper Iowa University, on the

problems as well as the successes of economic research in USDA.

A proceedings publication is being prepared. The sessions were recorded and a number were videotaped. Tapes are available for use in the ERS headquarters reference center. A 30th anniversary reading list has been developed and is available from Douglas Bowers (219-0787). More activities are being planned for later in the year. If you have ideas for other activities to commemorate the establishment of ERS, contact any member of the 30th anniversary committee: Cecil Davison (chair, 219-0840), Andy Anderson, Douglas Bowers, Joseph Braxton, James Horsfield, James Johnson, Robert Reinsel, or Sara Wampler.

## Special Merit Awards Presented

The ERS Administrator's 12th Annual Special Merit Awards Ceremony was held April 4 as part of ERS's 30th anniversary celebration. ERS Administrator John Lee presented 20 awards, which recognized ERS staff and others who have made major

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### ERS Newsletter

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## Administrator's Letter—Some Questions About ERS: Part Two

In the April/May *ERS Newsletter*, I shared some responses to questions that arose in an interview for an article that appeared in the April issue of *Farmline* magazine. I promised more, so here goes.



Q. ERS recently celebrated its 30th anniversary. Much has been said about the early "landmark" contributions of ERS. What are some more recent examples of progress in ERS?

A. One of the most important examples of progress made in the last decade is not a product as such, but the building of a capacity and process to deliver high quality staff analysis to policymakers on a timely basis. That capacity has greatly increased the relevance and impact of ERS's research, analysis, economic indicators, and data bases. Recent landmark works are too numerous to list, but I'll suggest a selected few:

- The studies of benefits, costs, and effectiveness of soil conservation programs that contributed to reform of Federal conservation programs.
- The research that led to annual publication of measures of assistance to agriculture (PSE's and CSE's). These measures became the international standard, assured that OECD would continue to publish similar measures, and changed the language of the GATT trade negotiations in the Uruguay Round.
- The studies that led to development of a typology of rural counties. These county types are now a part of the "conventional wisdom" among rural development researchers and practitioners and have greatly advanced research on rural development strategies and policies.
- The recent definitive study of supermarket prices that will provide a major benchmark for food market studies and regulatory activities for years to come.
- The development of a data base and studies that measured farm financial conditions in the 1980's. These studies provided statistically sound measures of financial well-being that replaced rhetoric and ill-founded claims during the "farm crisis" of the 1980's and became the commonly accepted measures of farm well-being.

There were many more efforts that have proven immensely important, and I'm probably in trouble for just mentioning these few.

Q. Is there some quantitative measure of the output of ERS? For example, are publications a measure of ERS's contribution? If so, is there a record for the published output of ERS in a particular year?

A. There is no good quantitative measure of ERS output or of the value of what we do in a given year. While we have historical files on reports published by ERS and USDA, we only have records for recent years for total written output of ERS. If one counts everything including ERS publications, chapters, articles, papers, speeches, book reviews, etc., we typically produce some 1,200–1,500 written products a year. In 1990, we produced a record number of ERS and USDA reports (335) while also producing a record number of staff analyses (655), many new data products, and a large number of products in non-USDA publications. I find these measures or "counts" interesting, but not very helpful. What really counts is the significance and impact of what we do, not the number of reports.

I am convinced that our productivity has improved over time. We now do more work in shorter periods than in the past. We now often do major studies in 12 months where we once might have considered them to be 3-year studies. We do that to make them timelier. We are able to do that because of modern data management and information management technology and policies. With regard to data management, however, there is room for further efficiency.

If there are questions you would like me to address in future *Newsletters*, send me a note. I welcome feedback.

  
John Lee

contributions to carrying out the mission of ERS.

Ronald Trostle received the Distinguished Service Award for outstanding management of the Commodity Trade and Analysis Branch. Recipients of the Superior Service Award were: Lori McPherson, for secretarial and administrative support to ATAD Director's Office; Robert Donegan, Sterling Hawkins, Jesse Wade, and Michael Robinson, for outstanding ADP hardware and telecommunications support; Felix Llacuna, for excellence in contributing to the development and production of ERS analysis; Ralph Heimlich, for research and communication on the role of agriculture and agricultural policy in wetlands preservation; Rachel Evans, for support of the productivity measurement project; Terry Crawford, James Deaton, Praveen Dixit, Walter Gardiner, Michael Herlihy, Stephen Magiera, Stephanie Mercier, Frederick Nelson, Mary Anne Normile, Vernon Roningen, Paul Westcott, and Glenn Zepp, for outstanding GATT analytic support; Mary Ahearn, Robert Barry, David Ervin, Sam Evans, Joseph Glauber, James Johnson, Ronald Lord, Tim Osborn, Michael Price, James Schaub, Paul Westcott, and Edwin Young, for outstanding work on the 1990 Farm Bill; Thomasine McCall, for maintaining the U.S. agricultural trade data base; Gerald Schluter, for management of the National Aggregate Analysis Section; Stephen Magiera and Michael Herlihy, for outstanding analysis in support of GATT trade negotiations; Alan Webb and Karl Gudmunds, for development and support of the PS&D View and Time Series software and data base packages; Susan Bentley, for contributing to an improved understanding of the socioeconomic conditions of farm operators who left farming during the mid-1980's; Sara Mazie, Lindsay Mann, and Susan DeGeorge, for development, design, and production of *Rural Conditions and*

*Trends*; Michael Moore, for developing and sustaining a policy-relevant research program on the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; Bruce Greenshields, for highly efficient and competent management; Gregory Gajewski, Nathan Childs, Karen Sayre, Ann Duncan, Diane Decker, and Cliola Peterson, for sustained excellence of *Agricultural Outlook*; Jack Rutz, Donald Lutz, Sammye Crawford, Michael Clark, David Dillard, Bernard Albrecht, Douglas Kleweno, and Richard Clark (all with the National Agricultural Statistics Service), for support and cooperation on improving the accuracy and coverage of the Farm Costs and Returns Survey; Mildred Russell, Lehmer Sullivan, Beverly Polen, William Duggan, Michelle Guastella, Bruce Craig, Michele Sanchez, Shirley Dorsey, Donna Sharp, and Yolanda Grant (all with the Economics Management Staff), for providing excellent support to ERS managers across an unusually broad range of personnel issues; and Gerald Schluter, Caroline Fohlin, and Sherman Robinson, for best article in the *Journal of Agricultural Economics Research*.

## Major Land Use Series Continues

As ERS marks its 30th birthday, the data series on major uses of land in the United States entered its second half-century with the release of *Major Uses of Land in the United States: 1987* (AER-643), by Arthur Daugherty (219-0422). The series originated in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics (National Resources Planning Board, *Our National Resources, Facts and Problems*, Washington, DC, 1940) and reports have been issued coincident with the quinquennial agricultural census since 1945. (A companion annual series on cropland has been maintained since 1909.) A complete reporting of the data developed in this series since 1945 is available as an ERS Electronic Product (No. 89003)

developed by Kenneth Krupa and Arthur Daugherty.

Several noted geographers were involved in early reports in the series. Francis Marschner, who worked on USDA's *Atlas of American Agriculture* during 1920-40, was a coauthor of the first report in the series. Marschner was vice-president of the Association of American Geographers in 1944, received the association's citation for meritorious service in 1954 for producing the first medium-scale map of land use in the United States, and was elected a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1963. James Anderson, who later became chief geographer of the U.S. Geological Survey, was also coauthor of one of the early reports.

While a number of BAE and ERS researchers have been involved with the series, Hugh Wooten, an agricultural economist who retired in the mid-1960's, and Thomas Frey, a geographer who retired in 1982, made major sustained contributions. Roger Hexem authored the 1985 report and maintained the series following Frey's retirement.

Perhaps the major contribution of the series is that it is the only accounting of all uses of land in the United States, public and private, over the period. Data are obtained from a number of Federal agencies including the Departments of Commerce, Defense, Interior, and Transportation as well as USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Forest Service, and Soil Conservation Service. State agencies are also an important source of data, particularly where State agencies own substantial amounts of land. A number of special studies, such as the Public Land Law Review Commission, complement the information from Government sources. The final product contains State-level estimates of broad classes and subclasses of agricultural and nonagricultural uses of land.

During the 1970's, the major land uses report was a frequently



cited source of information in annual reports of the President's Council on Environmental Quality. Towards the end of the decade, as cropland acreage was approaching its historic high, the series was useful in assessing where further expansion might occur. During the same period, it provided an important counterbalance to controversial new estimates of the rate of urbanization of agricultural land made by the National Agricultural Lands Study. In the 1980's, the series was an important first step in looking at issues like sodbusting, wetlands conversion, and the conservation reserve that are now integral parts of farm policy.

The latest major land uses report contains no surprises. It shows that, of the approximately 2.3 billion acres of land in the United States, 20 percent is cropland, 26 percent is grassland pasture and range, 29 percent is forest land (exclusive of parks), and 13 percent is in miscellaneous uses including urban, transportation, parks, and wildlife areas. During 1982-87, cropland, pasture and range, and forest land acreages declined slightly, and special uses, including parks, wildlife areas, and urban uses, increased by a combined 3 percent.

The major uses of land reports have had wide circulation over the years, at times near the top of the list of publications ordered from ERS. Information from the series also regularly appears in *Agricultural Statistics*, *The Statistical Abstract of the United States*, and *Environmental Trends*.

## ERS Team Visits Mexico

ERS analysts Mathew Shane (219-0700), Linda Bailey, Linda Calvin, John Link, Jerry Sharples, and Constanza Valdez visited Mexico on a factfinding mission for the upcoming North American Free Trade Area negotiations. The team was briefed by members of the Mexican Ministries of Agriculture, Trade, and Finance on the current policy changes taking place in Mexico.

Since 1985, Mexico has begun a dramatic reversal of policy, unilaterally moving rapidly toward an open economy under laissez-faire principles. During the process of structural reform, Mexico has sold off more than 80 percent of its publicly owned enterprises, reduced its government deficit by 17 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), removed 98 percent of import and export license requirements, lowered average tariff rates from 85 percent to 10 percent, and liberalized the rules for direct foreign investment.

The consequences of reform are being felt. Real GDP growth in 1990 reached about 4 percent when the average over 1981-88 was almost zero. In addition, direct foreign investment has increased to almost \$4 billion, and foreign reserves are now at more than \$10 billion. The debt/GDP ratio fell from almost 70 percent in 1985 to about 40 percent in 1990.

## Developing Economies Branch Is Restructured

ERS's Agriculture and Trade Analysis Division has restructured its Developing Economies Branch to more effectively provide monitoring, research, and analysis of regional problems of the developing countries. The new structure emphasizes the study of issues on a regional rather than topical basis. One new section has been created and the other three sections have been renamed.

The newly created Latin American Markets and Trade Section will focus on problems in the Latin American countries by monitoring their economies and agricultural sectors, specifying the economic and trade relationships, and assessing the impacts of changing production and trade patterns and policies on the welfare of the farm and food sectors. The potential U.S.-Mexican free trade agreement is one major topic that will be addressed.

The Asian Markets and Trade Section focuses on commercial trade issues of Asian countries by monitoring their economies and agricultural sectors, analyzing the economic and trade relationships, and assessing the effects of changing production, trade, and policies on the welfare and growth of the farm and food sectors.

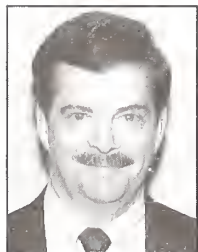
The African Development and Trade Section focuses on problems in the food-aid-dependent countries of Africa by monitoring their economies and agricultural sectors, evaluating the changing roles of aid-dependent countries on world agricultural markets and trade, measuring the needs and availabilities of food aid, and assessing the potential uses of food aid for economic growth and development.

The Trade and Development Section focuses on the monetary and fiscal concerns of developing economies by examining monetary and financial determinants of economic growth and trade and assessing the public policies related to debt, exchange rates, trade pacts, and investment that affect country and commodity competitiveness, economic growth, and commercial trade.

## Personnel Notes

### Hasha Is New CED Section Leader

Gene Hasha is the leader of the newly established Forecast Support



Section, Commodity and Trade Analysis Branch, Commodity Economics Division. The section is

responsible for providing analytical support for analyzing and forecasting developments in global commodity markets.

Hasha joined ERS in 1972 as a South and Southeast Asia country analyst. During 1975-77, Hasha developed models of Western European countries as part of the Forecast Modeling Program Group and served as ERS's international oilseeds analyst and subsequently as an EC researcher and policy analyst. Since 1987, Hasha has been a cross-commodity analyst, involved in data systems development, baseline projections, and a variety of research and staff analyses activities. During the past year, he has been detailed to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Economics to help coordinate GATT policy analysis efforts.

Hasha has B.A. and M.A. degrees in economics from the University of Texas and spent 2 years of postgraduate study at the London School of Economics. He has received an ERS Administrator's Special Merit Award for staff analysis on European Community policy issues.

### Whitton Is New CED Section Leader

Carolyn Whitton is the new leader, International Commodity Analysis Section, Commodity and Trade Analysis Branch, Commodity Economics Division.



Whitton joined ERS in

1974 as a China analyst. In 1986, she became ERS's international cotton analyst. Whitton has gained wide recognition within USDA and the academic and agribusiness communities for her assessments of current developments and future prospects in foreign cotton markets. This expertise is reflected in her being selected to chair the U.S. Cotton Beltwide Conferences' Economics and Marketing Conference in 1992.

Whitton has a B.A. in Chinese studies, which included a year of study at National Taiwan University, and an M.S. in international economics from George Washington University. Whitton has also completed course work for an M.S. in agricultural economics from the University of Maryland. She has received several ERS Administrator's Special Merit Awards for her analysis and forecasting work on China.

### LeBlanc Becomes Branch Chief in RTD

Michael LeBlanc has been named chief, Resource Indicators Branch,



Resources and Technology Division.

LeBlanc first joined ERS in 1980 to conduct research on energy policy, capital structure

and investment, and tax policy. In 1985, he left ERS to be a senior economist at Batelle Pacific Northwest Laboratories, where his research focused on energy-related natural resource issues. LeBlanc rejoined ERS in 1986 as leader of the Domestic and International Policy Impacts Section. He later served as acting chief of the Resource Policy Branch, acting assistant director for staff analyses, associate director, and acting director of RTD.

LeBlanc has conducted research on the effects of monetary and fiscal policy on agricultural investment and on the feasibility and impacts of ethanol production. His research has been widely disseminated in professional journals, USDA reports, and at professional meetings, earning him numerous awards, including an ERS Administrator's Special Merit Award for outstanding research and an American Agricultural Economics Association's Quality of Research Discovery Award. Twice a recipient of ERS's Excellence Award for Research, LeBlanc also received USDA's Superior Service Award and an ERS Administrator's Special Merit Award for outstanding EEO contributions.

LeBlanc has a B.S. in resource development from Michigan State University and an M.S. and a Ph.D. in resource economics from Cornell University.



**Link Is New ATAD  
Section Leader**

John Link is the new leader, Latin American Markets and Trade Section, Developing Economics Branch, Agriculture and Trade Analysis Division. The section is responsible for



analyzing the effects of the interaction between domestic policies and trade for Latin American countries.

Since joining ERS in 1971, Link's work has concentrated on analyzing the factors that affect the supply, demand, and trade of agricultural commodities from Latin America. Link has worked with the World Bank, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the U.S. Agency for International Development on projects in Latin America. Link's recent responsibility includes coordination of ERS work on a U.S.-Mexican free-trade agreement with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.

Link has a B.S. in agricultural business from Iowa State University and an M.S. in agricultural economics from Montana State University. He has completed all requirements but dissertation for a Ph.D. in agricultural economics at the University of Maryland. He has received an ERS Administrator's Special Merit Award for outstanding situation and outlook contribution as a member of the food aid assessment group.

**African Researchers in ERS**

Two African agricultural economists are visiting scholars in ERS for 8 months.



Nwosu



Kanu

Aloysius Nwosu, a Fulbright scholar whose home institution is the Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research, is working on a project to draw appropriate lessons from the development of U.S. agriculture for Nigeria. Nwosu's

project involves an examination of U.S. agricultural policies, especially on farm mechanization, irrigation technology, growth of agricultural finance, and institutional changes.

Benedict Kanu, an intern from the African-American Institute and a Sierra Leone native, is interested in agricultural development and policy analysis. Kanu is involved in the preparation of a cooperative food strategy study of Tanzania, Kenya, and Zimbabwe and in the preparation of a food needs assessment report for Africa.

**ERS Retiree Allen Paul Dies**

Allen B. Paul, former ERS economist and futures markets expert, died April 30, 1991, in Washington, D.C. He worked in ERS (1961-84) and AMS (1958-61) as an agricultural economist, program leader, branch chief, and senior economist.

Paul had B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in agricultural economics from the University of Illinois. He was an assistant professor of food industry research at the University of Illinois during 1947-49. He worked as a research economist with the Brookings Institution during 1950-53 and again during 1956-58. During 1955-56, he worked as a consultant to TVA, FTC, Food Retailers Price Control Study Group, and private industry.

He was a visiting professor at the University of Hawaii during 1968/69. He retired from ERS in 1984 and since served as an adviser to the Government of Thailand and as a consultant to the World Bank.

As a leading student of markets and exchange systems within USDA, Paul profoundly influenced the evolution of markets. He conducted analyses and prepared testimony for USDA that helped Congress decide to lift a 46-year ban and approve trading of agricultural options contracts. A reviewer of a monograph on potato futures, of which Paul was the senior author, called it "one of the best organized and well argued case studies...I have seen." The concept of cash settlement for futures contracts, which Paul helped to develop, has had growing use in agricultural futures contracts and wide use outside of agriculture.

Paul served as editor of *Agricultural Economics Research*, book review editor of the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, member of the AJAE editorial council, and member of committees of the American Agricultural Economics Association and the International Association of Agricultural Economists. He won first prize in a national essay competition on agricultural marketing, received USDA's Superior Service Award, and was elected fellow of the American Agricultural Economics Association, that Association's highest honor.

Paul was a scholar who read widely, knew the history of institutions and ideas, probed deeply, made careful distinctions, and used language with precision. He maintained that one must first satisfy ones own standards, and he set very high standards for himself. He was a dedicated public servant who sought conscientiously to provide the understanding needed by decisionmakers.

## Highlights of Staff Activities

### *Agriculture and Rural Economy Division*

At a Southern Regional Science Associations meeting in Miami, Fla., **William Edmondson** presented a paper, "Examining Agricultural Output in the 1982 National Input-Output Accounts by State and I/O Sector"; **Robert Gibbs** presented a paper, "The Information Effects of Origin on Migrants' Job Search Behavior"; **David Henderson** presented a paper, "Commercial Loans and the Development of Local Retail Business" (coauthored by **George Wallace**); **Daniel Milkove** presented a paper, "Recent Bank Consolidation in Rural Financial Markets"; **James Miller** presented a paper, "Small Business Development as a Growth Strategy in Nonmetropolitan Areas"; **Shirley Porterfield** presented a paper, "The Impact of Structural Change on Earnings in the Post-Industrial Economy"; **Richard Reeder** presented a paper, "Enterprise Zones: Assessing Their Potential as a Rural Development Strategy"; **Thomas Rowley** presented a paper, "The Rapid Rise in Per Capita Income Inequality in the 1980's: Sources and Prospects" (coauthored by **John Redman**); **Rowley** also presented a paper, "Removing Rural Development Barriers through Telecommunications: Illusion or Reality?" (coauthored by **Shirley Porterfield**); and **Peter Stenberg** presented a paper, "Higher Education and Productivity at the State Level: The Case of the Instrument Industry" • at a Southeast Decision Sciences Institute meeting in Arlington, Va., **Ronald Babula** presented a paper, "Dynamic Impacts of the August 1990 Shocks in Oil Prices on Agricultural Chemical and Fertilizer Prices"; **Martha Frederick** spoke on the role of entrepreneurial activities in stimulating rural economic

development; and **David Sears** chaired a panel on "Public Policy Issues and Rural Economic Development" • **Calvin Beale**, **Margaret Butler**, **John Cromartie**, **Laarni Dacquel**, **Paul Frenzen**, **Carolyn Rogers**, and **Linda Swanson** participated in a Population Association of America meeting in Washington, D.C. • **Cromartie** also participated in a symposium on "Population: Growing as a Field," sponsored by the Carolina Population Center, in Chapel Hill, N.C. • **Nora Brooks** presented a paper, "Farm Structural Trends in a Changing Rural Environment," at a conference on rural planning and development, sponsored by the University of Florida, in Orlando, Fla. • **Dennis Brown** presented a paper, "Linkages between Meat Processing and the Economy of Local Communities" at an Association of American Geographers meeting, in Miami, Fla. • **Robert Collender** and **Edward Cook** (ATAD) spoke on economic reform and agricultural finance in the Soviet Union at a National Agricultural Credit Committee meeting in Washington, D.C. • **James Duffield** presented a paper, "Farm Labor Supply and Demand Elasticities Revisited" at a Southern Regional Sociological Association meeting in Fort Worth, Tex. • **Lowell Dyson** chaired a session on twentieth century farm movements and politics at a meeting of the Organization of American Historians, in Louisville, Ky. • **Steven Koenig** presented a paper, "Market Value versus Agricultural Use Value of Farmland" (coauthored by **Lindon Robison** and **Steven Hanson**, Michigan State University), at an Economic Accounting for Commodities and Returns Conference, in Kansas City, Mo. • **Sara Mazie** participated in a Northeast Regional Council meeting in Washington, D.C. • **Mazie** also participated in a meeting of the Food and Agriculture Committee of the National Planning Association in Washington, D.C. • **Daniel Milkove** participated in a

conference on real estate and the financial system sponsored by the National Taxpayers Union Foundation, in Washington, D.C. • **James Miller** spoke on small business trends in the Midwest and Illinois at a conference on rural community development sponsored by the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs, in Springfield, Ill. • **Miller** was also interviewed by three Illinois radio stations on small business growth in rural areas • **Shirley Porterfield** participated in a Southern Regional Development Center meeting on employment retention and expansion in the rural South, in Fort Worth, Tex. • **Carolyn Rogers** participated in an Interagency Forum on Aging Related Statistics meeting, in Washington, D.C. • **Jack Runyan** participated in a National Council of Agricultural Employers meeting, in Washington, D.C. • **Paul Swaim** presented a paper, "To Search or Not To Search: Jobless Duration and Labor Force Withdrawal Following Displacement" (coauthored with **Michael Podgursky**, University of Massachusetts) at an Eastern Economic Association meeting in Pittsburgh, Pa. • **Swaim** and **Ruy Teixeira** participated in a Rural Sociological Society task force meeting on persistent rural poverty, in Tampa, Fla. • and **Leslie Whitener** spoke on changing farm structure and employment patterns and trends for agricultural workers at a Surgeon General's conference on agricultural safety and health, in Des Moines, Iowa.



## Agriculture and Trade Analysis Division

At an S-224 regional research committee meeting on "International Trade Research on Products Important to the Southern Region" in Arlington, Va., **David Kelch** presented a paper, "The European Community Single Market Implications for Developing Economies" (coauthored by **Liana Neff** and **Terri Raney**); **Suchada Langley** presented a paper, "State Trading in Developing Countries"; **Carl Mabbs-Zeno** presented a paper, "The Effects of Policy Changes on the International Banana Market" (coauthored by **Barry Krissoff**); **Gene Mathia** presented a paper, "Prospects for Policy and Trade Reforms in South Africa"; **Donna Roberts** presented a paper, "The Role of Government Intervention in Latin American Agricultural Trade"; **Shahla Shapouri** presented a paper, "Sub-Saharan Africa's Dairy Market and the Impact of Import Policies" (coauthored by **Stacey Rosen**); **Thomas Vollrath** presented a paper, "Are MTN Exclusions in LDC Interests?"; **Vollrath** also presented a paper, "LDC's as a Source of U.S. Export Growth" (coauthored by **Linda Scott**); **Shwu-Eng Webb** presented a paper, "China's Agricultural Commodity Policies: Implications for World Agricultural Markets"; and **Mark Wenner** presented a paper, "Current and Potential Trade Flows between East Europe and LDC's". • **Tim Baxter** and **Alberto Jerardo** represented ERS at a Project LINK meeting at the United Nations, in New York, N.Y. • at a Latin American Studies Association Conference in Washington, D.C., **Richard Brown** presented a paper, "Trends in CBI Agricultural Trade"; **Liana Neff** presented a paper, "EC-1992: Caribbean and Central American Competition in the Banana Market"; and **Mark Wenner** organized a panel and presented a paper, "Export Performance under the Caribbean Basin Initiative"

• **Edward Cook**, **Walter Gardiner**, **Carol Goodloe**, and **Robert Koopman** traveled to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome, Italy, to prepare articles for FAO's *State of Food and Agriculture 1990* report • **Brian D'Silva** presented two papers, "The Anatomy of a Famine: Sudan 1991" at a School of Public Health seminar and "Food Needs and Food Crop Assessments: A View from the Field and the Politics of Famine" at a Fletcher School of Law seminar, both at Harvard University • **D'Silva** also participated in a seminar on structural reform and adjustment using the RMSM-XX class of models sponsored by the World Bank, in Washington, D.C. • **Michael Herlihy** presented a paper, "Multilateral Trade Reform: The GATT and U.S. Agriculture," at a National Dry Bean Council meeting in, Chicago, Ill. • **Anwarul Hoque** presented a paper, "Comparison of Agricultural Output, Input, and Productivity Growth in the United Kingdom and the United States" (coauthored by **Colin Thirtle**, Ministry of Agriculture, U.K.), at the University of Reading • **Robert Koopman** spoke on ERS work on Hungarian PSE's and CSE's and the effects of trade liberalization at a seminar on the agriculture of Hungary sponsored by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in The Hague, Netherlands • **Lori Lynch** was interviewed by USDA radio and by *Glamour* magazine on organic food standards • **Carl Mabbs-Zeno** spent 7 weeks in Nigeria and Rome leading an FAO team assessing the impact of Nigerian structural adjustment on agriculture • **Fred Nelson** and **Mary Anne Normile** were part of U.S. delegation to Brussels for discussions with the European Commission on the EC's country list • **Edward Overton** traveled to Rome and Paris to meet with FAO and OECD staff on international productivity comparisons and to initiate work on international costs of production

comparisons • and at a Great Plains extension trade workshop, in Denver, Colo., **Jerry Sharples** presented a paper, "Why Trade? Rationale for Trade"; and **Robert Reinsel** spoke on the relationship of agricultural policies to trade.

## Commodity Economics Division

**Thomas Capehart** and **Verner Grise** participated in a tobacco cost of marketing task force meeting in Asheville, N.C. • **Lee Christensen**, **Terry Crawford**, **Agnes Perez**, and **Larry Witucki** participated in a United Egg Producers legislative meeting in Washington, D.C. • **Annette Clauson** participated in an International Sugarbeet Institute meeting in Crookston, Minn. • **Anthony Gallo** spoke on the food marketing system in 1991 at a seminar for agricultural marketing students at the University of Maryland • at an NCR-134 conference on applied commodity price analysis, forecasting, and market risk management in Chicago, Ill., **John Ginzel** presented a paper, "Developing and Testing Models for Cash Price Relationships between Lighter Weight Stockers through Heavier Weight Feeders" (coauthored by **Ronald Gustafson** and **Terry Crawford**); and **Richard Stillman** presented a paper, "Are Composite Forecasts More Accurate? An Application to Livestock and Poultry," (coauthored by **Mark Weimar** and **Kenneth Nelson**) • **Anthony Grano**, **Allen Johnson**, **Mack Leath**, and **Robert McElroy** participated in NASS/ERS Data Users Meetings in Memphis, Tenn., and Kansas City, Mo. • **David Harvey** spoke on the domestic situation and outlook for aquaculture at a joint congressional Subcommittee on Aquaculture meeting in Washington, D.C. • **Ian McCormick** presented a paper, "The 1990 Farm Bill: Implications for Oilseed Markets," at a National Fish Meal and Oil Processors conference in Raleigh, N.C.



- **Myles Mielke** spent two weeks in Budapest as part of an ERS team that presented a proposal on a cooperative exchange with the Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture
- **James Miller** spoke on the dairy outlook at a Northeast Dairy Conference, in Albany, N.Y.
- **Rosanna Morrison** presented a paper, "The Market for Fat Substitutes," at a Midwest Milk Marketing Conference, in Columbus, Ohio
- **Lester Myers** presented a paper, "Social and Demographic Factors Affecting Food Demand," at a National Planning Association meeting, in Washington, D.C.
- **Steven Neff** participated in a Western Dairy Conference in Seattle, Wash.
- **Daniel Putler** presented a paper, "The Effects of Diet-Disease Awareness on Consumer Behavior: The Case of Informing the Public about the Risks of Dietary Fat," at a Marketing Science conference in Wilmington, Del.
- **Tanya Roberts** spoke on the economics of food safety at a National Leadership Development Program sponsored by the National Center for Food and Agricultural Policy, Resources for the Future, in Washington, D.C.
- **James Schaub** participated in a Soybean Economist Roundtable meeting sponsored by the American Soybean Association, in Washington, D.C.
- and **Amy Sparks** organized and moderated a panel, "Growth of the Chilean Fruit Sector: Benefits to Whom?", at a Latin American Studies Association meeting in Crystal City, Va.

## *Resources and Technology Division*

**Dave Ervin** presented a paper, "The Relationship of Agricultural and Environmental Policies among Developed Countries," at a Food and Agriculture Committee meeting of the National Planning Association in Washington, D.C.

- **Ervin** also discussed environmental and agricultural policy integration concepts at an NC-149 regional research committee symposium on "Agricultural Policy and the Environment," in Lexington, Ky.
- **Noel Gollehon** participated in a Water Committee meeting of the Great Plains Agricultural Council devoted to drought preparedness, in Denver, Colo.
- **Ralph Heimlich** represented ERS at a Range and Livestock Committee meeting of the Great Plains Agricultural Council and participated in a discussion of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 conservation provisions that could potentially affect Conservation Reserve Program grasslands, in Denver, Colo.
- **Heimlich** also represented ERS at a Southern Natural Resource Economics Committee meeting on the economics of solid waste management, in Lexington, Ky.
- **Daniel Hellerstein** presented a seminar, "Computing Consumer Surplus in Conjunction with Tobit Estimators," at the University of Maryland as part of the ERS-University of Maryland occasional lecture series
- **Hellerstein** presented a paper, "The Treatment of Nonparticipants in Travel Cost Analysis," at a conference on "Economic Valuation of Wilderness," in Jackson Hole, Wyo.
- **Hellerstein** also participated in a U.S. Forest Service Resource Planning Act Assessment conference, in Jackson Hole, Wyo.
- **Richard Magleby** spoke on the procedures for economic evaluation of demonstration projects funded under the President's Water Quality Initiative at a meeting of USDA personnel in Denver, Colo.
- **John**

**Miranowski** and **Dave Ervin** discussed ERS research on environmental and agricultural policy at an Ad Hoc Group on Agriculture and Environment meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris, France

- **John Reilly** presented a seminar on a dynamic control representation of global change at Cornell University
- and **Marc Ribaud** participated in a conference on ground water protection sponsored by the National Governor's Association and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Scottsdale, Ariz.

## *Office of the Administrator*

**Milton Ericksen** participated in an economics committee meeting of the Great Plains Agricultural Council, in Amarillo, Tex.

- and **John Lee** presented a seminar on research issues to the faculty of the Dept. of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology at Ohio State University, and also testified on the ERS budget for FY 1992 before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Rural Development, Agriculture, and Related Agencies.

## ERS Alumni Notes

*[We invite ERS alumni to write to us at the address on page 2 about what they or other alumni are doing, where they are living, etc.]*

ERS staff have compiled a comprehensive list of ERS retirees, 1961–91, as part of the preparations for the conference, "Economics and Public Service," held on April 4. Over 560 retirees were identified, including 121 who are known to be deceased and 54 for whom no address was available. Invitations to the conference were mailed to the last known address of all other retirees, and 75 attended all or part of the day's activities. A retiree breakfast at ERS headquarters preceded the conference, and many old friends gathered for the occasion.

A directory of ERS retirees will be sent to all retirees on the current mailing list (if you receive this Newsletter, you will also receive the directory). Additional copies of the directory will be available after July 30 from Verla Rape, Room 1212, 1301 New York Ave. NW., Washington, DC 20005–4788.

Harry Steele, former director of ERS's Natural Resource Economics Division, and his wife are living with his daughter and son-in-law, Joan and Carl Hanson, 9507 Theodosia, St. Louis, MO 63114, while he recovers from a stroke.

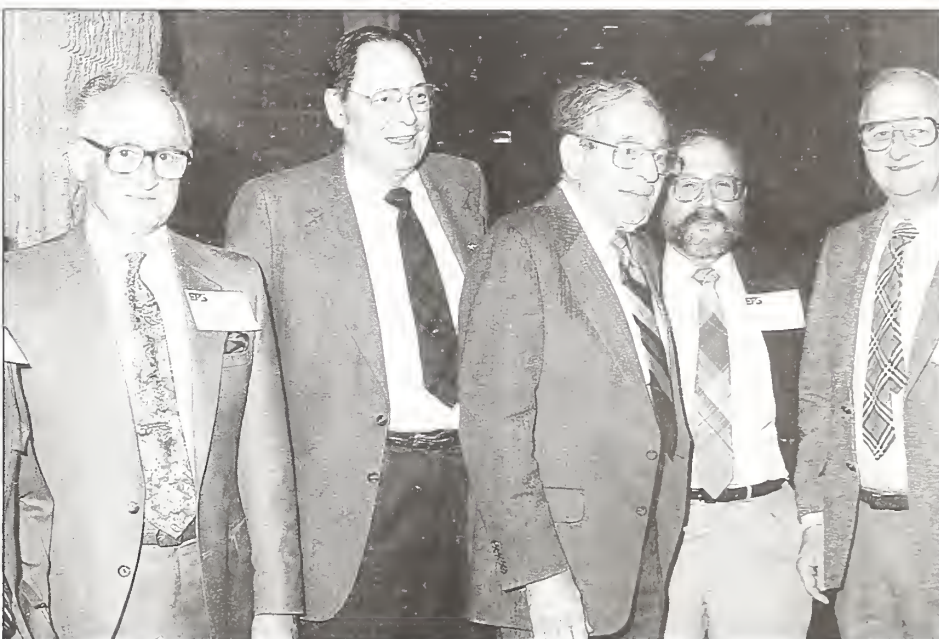
## More photos from ERS's 30th anniversary



Secretary Edward Madigan greets former secretary Richard Lyng



Nathan Koffsky, first ERS administrator, introducing the luncheon speaker.



Velmar Davis (retired), Art Mackie, Hans Hirsch (retired), Michael Kurtzig, and Marshall Cohen (retired) at the conference.

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